

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 3021**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez**

February 24, 2006

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An act to add Chapter 8.1 (commencing with Section 8710) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to international relations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3021, as amended, Nunez. California-Mexico relations.

**Existing**

(1) Existing law generally provides for programs administered by various state agencies regarding issues of concern between California and Mexico.

This bill would set forth certain findings and declarations of the Legislature in that regard.

(2) Existing law establishes in state government the Office of California-Mexico Affairs to further and develop favorable relations with the State of Baja California, the State of Baja California Sur, other Mexican states bordering on the United States, and the remaining states and territories of the Republic of Mexico necessary for the completion of the office's tasks.

This bill would establish the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to consist of specified state officials. The bill would require the council to, among other things, coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships that exist within state government. The bill

would, beginning January 1, 2008, require the council to annually submit a report on its activities to the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

2 (a) The California Research Bureau recently identified in its  
3 “Inventory of Mexico Related Projects Conducted by California  
4 State Agencies,” more than 100 programs, initiatives, projects,  
5 and partnerships that exist within state government and are  
6 administered by 12 departments and agencies, eight boards and  
7 commissions, and various campuses of the University of  
8 California, the California State University, and the California  
9 Community Colleges.

10 (b) Programs generally fall into the areas of trade,  
11 immigration, environment, energy, transportation, health,  
12 homeland security, agriculture, education, and tourism.

13 (c) The Office of California-Mexico Affairs was previously  
14 housed within the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency,  
15 which no longer exists. Therefore, the office is not active in  
16 coordinating these programs.

17 (d) The State Water Resources Control Board directs the  
18 state’s border environmental efforts through its Border  
19 Environmental Program. The program is a collaborative effort  
20 that includes the California Environmental Protection Agency,  
21 other state agencies, the State of Baja California, and tribal  
22 nations located along the border region. All California  
23 Environmental Protection Agency boards, departments, and  
24 officers actively participate in the program to ensure that  
25 environmental issues are addressed on a multimedia basis.

26 (e) There is a need to develop a state government structure that  
27 will provide effective coordination of various state agency  
28 efforts, as well as a thoughtful and collaborative assessment of  
29 current and future program development that will serve the needs  
30 of both California and Mexico in the 21st century.

31 SEC. 2. Chapter 8.1 (commencing with Section 8710) is  
32 added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

1        *CHAPTER 8.1. CALIFORNIA-MEXICO RELATIONS COUNCIL*

2  
3        8710. *The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:*

4        (a) *“Border” means the line of demarcation between*  
5 *California and Mexico.*

6        (b) *“Council” means the California-Mexico Border Relations*  
7 *Council.*

8        (c) *“Public agency” means a city, county, city and county,*  
9 *district, or the state or any agency or department of the state.*

10       8711. (a) *The California-Mexico Border Relations Council is*  
11 *hereby established in state government. The council shall consist*  
12 *of the Secretary of the Resources Agency, the Secretary for*  
13 *Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Health and Human*  
14 *Services, the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing,*  
15 *the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, and the Director of*  
16 *Emergency Services.*

17       (b) *The Secretary for Environmental Protection shall chair the*  
18 *council.*

19       8712. *The council shall do all of the following:*

20       (a) *Coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to*  
21 *cross-border programs, initiatives, projects, and partnerships*  
22 *that exist within state government, to improve the effectiveness of*  
23 *state and local efforts that are of concern between California and*  
24 *Mexico.*

25       (b) *Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing*  
26 *of data related to cross-border issues between and among*  
27 *agencies.*

28       (c) *Identify and recommend to the Legislature changes in law*  
29 *needed to achieve the goals of this section.*

30       8713. *Beginning January 1, 2008, the council shall submit a*  
31 *report to the Legislature on the council’s activities annually.*